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THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART



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CLEVELAND MUSEUM RECEIVES EIGHT NORTON SIMON LOANS

The Norton Simon Foundation in Fullerton, California has generously arranged to lend to The Cleveland Museum of Art eight works of art from its collection. The loan comprises three paintings and five sculptures which are now on display in the Cleveland Museum galleries. The works will stay in Cleveland for two years.

The Foundation loans include three angel musicians of marble from early 14th century Italy; each about twenty inches high. The artist is Andrea Orcagna, a Florentine active between 1344 and 1368, who was not only a sculptor but a painter, mosaicist, illuminator and occasional sonneteer as well. The angel musicians are examples of his perfect sense of rhythm and balance and may have been part of a group which depicted the 150th Psalm. The heavenly orchestra, shown in mid-performance, includes a timbrel-player, a bagpiper and a zither player. The angels are in gallery one.

On display in Gallery 4 and returning to the Museum for a second time, is a small (12-1/2" x 9-1/2") painting HEAD OF A WOMAN, identified as having been done about 1508 by the great Venetian artist Giorgione (ca. 1477-1510). The painting has the rich color and haunting atmosphere characteristic of the artist's style. The picture first appeared in Cleveland in the 1956 Museum-organized exhibition THE VENETIAN TRADITION. There it represented the first-phase, classic treatment of the tradition in which the realm of Giorgione and his contemporary Titian --- grandeur, dignity and poetry --- were emphasized.

On display in Gallery 17 where part of the Museum's Italian Renaissance collection is located is the 27 inch high marble and bronze TABERNACLE, executed by Antonio Rossellino

(1427-1478). Rossellino was among the great Florentine marble sculptors of the second half of the 15th century and is nearest in style to Desiderio. The TABERNACLE is in the form of a portal with a recessed door bearing the gilt bronze figure of a bishop who, in the folds of his cloak, supports three globes, the symbol of the Medici family. Angels flank the bishop and a dove, indicating the Holy Spirit, hovers above..

An oil panel painting of the apostle ST. PETER, from the Circle of the German artist Conrad von Soest is on display in Gallery 2. The painting (23 inches x 14 inches) was executed about 1410 and shows a golden-haloed St. Peter looking upward with a fervent expression, holding the key in his right hand and the Testament in his left. Von Soest and his circle were part of the vigorously expressive Westphalian school, von Soest himself being the first outstanding personality of the School.

Gallery two has the addition of one of Gerard David's important late paintings, THE CROWNING OF THE VIRGIN WITH PRELATES AND ANGELS. The Flemish master who died in 1523 was the last great follower of Jan van Eyck's Bruges school, characterized by grave calm and monumental feeling. In some aspects he is considered a forerunner of Rembrandt. The painting was once in the collection of Prince Juan de Bourbon (1822-1887), grandson of Charles IV, King of Spain and was exhibited in the Prado for many years before coming to the United States.

Completing the loans is the 31 inch high bust of the famous French painter Pierre Mignard, executed when he was about eighty by the French sculptor Martin Desjardins (ca. 1640-1694). Desjardins was a court sculptor at the time of King Louis XIV and a rector of the French Academy. The subject was premier painter to Louis XIV and was also a rector, professor, director and chancellor of the French academy. The bust is in Gallery 8.

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